

**COMMUNITY AND IN-HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR
THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)
Board Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2008**

**Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 17
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46207**

CHOICE Board Members in Attendance: Nick Petrone, Noble Stallons, Senator Vaneta Becker, Senator Jean Breaux, Blake Jackson, Prudence Twigg

CHOICE Board Members Absent: Bill Boothe, Pete Emigh, Glenda Russell, Linda Stephan, Representative Peggy Welch

Visitors in Attendance: Ruth Ratzlaff, Cindy Wides, Ann Allen, Tyson Runkle, Jean Macdonald, Judy Kratzner, Paul Chase, Linda Wolcott, Ellen Burton, Michael Metroka, Becky Johnson, John Cardwell, Jim Leich, Mary Rita Hurley, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Humbert Lopes, Megan Ornellas, Jade Luchauer, Celeste Stinson

Call to Order: Chairperson Blake Jackson called the meeting to order. There was not a quorum to vote on the previous meeting minutes.

Division of Aging Update: Megan Ornellas, Director of the Division of Aging, provided an update, including number of clients served and waitlist information. Megan also reviewed the Division of Aging's plan to decrease the length of time it takes a person to be processed and approved for the Aging and Disabled Waiver. Senator Becker requested a breakdown of where people are receiving services by county and what types of services they are receiving.

Senator Becker inquired about the status of the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) and Megan responded that there is now a HIP unit within FSSA as well as a new unit within the call center dedicated to HIP.

Chairperson Jackson asked Megan when the start date for potential Aged and Disabled Waiver clients is in the spectrum of the timeline. Megan responded that the timeline begins when a person is identified as ready to move onto the Waiver after a slot becomes available. Senator Becker asked for the number of clients being served by the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver and Megan said that there are currently 132 clients on the TBI Waiver.

Megan informed the Board that the TBI Waiver was recently approved and the Division is looking into making a few changes such as Waiver rate increases.

Chairperson Blake requested information about reasons why people are on the CHOICE waitlist. Jade Luchauer said that the CHOICE Quarterly Report that the Division submits to the General Assembly includes a listing of reasons why people are on the waitlist.

Many of the Area Agencies on Aging list "No Funds Available" as the main reason why people are on the waitlist. Jade and Celeste Stinson are surveying the Area Agencies on Aging to determine their exact criteria for "No Funds Available." Chairperson Jackson requested a list of number of people getting on and off the waitlist each month.

Ellen Burton, Director of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration grant, provided an update on the program and said that the Division is in the process of setting up a transition team at each of the Area Agencies on Aging. The Division has received verbal approval of our Operational Protocol from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and we expect to be able to begin transitioning people in October.

Noble Stallons asked how it is determined that the MFP participants are ready to transition. Ellen said that there is a pre-transition checklist that must be completed. Once each item on the checklist has been approved and finalized then everything is ready and the person can physically move. The goal is to transition 1,039 recipients over the life of the grant, which ends in September 2011.

Waiver Case Study: Celeste Stinson reviewed a Medicaid Waiver Case Study that the Board had requested and Tina Boneff and Ruth Ratzlaff at Area 3 created.

Old Business: Celeste reviewed current Board vacancies. The current vacancies include a citizen at least sixty years of age, nominated by two or more organizations that represent senior citizens and have statewide membership and a licensed physician, nurse, or nurse practitioner who specializes either in the field of gerontology or in the field of disabilities. Celeste said that since the previous board meeting, a small number of people expressed interest in the vacant positions and she mailed them information about the CHOICE Board, as well as an application. We have not yet heard anything from the Governor's office as to the status of the applications.

Jade Luchauer reviewed the self-directed attendant care programs within Medicaid Waiver and CHOICE at the Board's request. A year to year comparison of 2006 and 2007 shows that the programs are growing.

Celeste Stinson reviewed the numbers of CHOICE clients served and waitlist information from July 2007 to April 2008.

Public Comments: Jean Macdonald from Indiana Association for Home and Hospice Care gave a brief presentation on types of home care services in Indiana. Jean provided her contact information if anyone had further questions.

Adjournment: Chairperson Jackson called for an adjournment of the meeting.